

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. The Office has rejected claims 1-23 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barkley (U.S. Pat. 6,202,066). This Office action is responsive to a communication filed on or about February 18, 2005 and has been made final.

102(e) Rejection of Claims 1 and 23

Barkley does not show or suggest “providing a user-defined data type,” as required by Applicant. The Office asserts that Barkley does teach a user defined data type in column 11, lines 20-25, in the form of deposit account information or employee information. Barkley does refer to “various files maintained by the bank’s computer system ... such as files related to depositor account information and employee information,” but this is not a user-defined data type. This passage simply states that there are files that have information related to bank accounts and bank employees. There is no teaching of a user-defined data type, nor does Barkley give any indication that user-defined data types are used or even needed. It is true that all computer files have a structure and that a user somewhere defined the structure, but a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a file structure is a high level construct defined by combining one or more lower level constructs such as data types. The structure of a computer text file for example, would be defined as some number of bytes where each byte is defined as a character data type. In this example, a character data type would represent one ASCII character and the file would have however many bytes of this data type that are needed to store the text. Other files will have more complex structures that uses multiple data types, some of which could be user-defined data types. As shown in this example, the structure of a computer file and a user-defined data type or any data type is not the same and it is improper to equate them.

The Office further asserts that the objects in column 11, lines 40-56, are user defined data types and are written by users. In this passage, Barkley teaches the use of a system structure called an Object Access Type (OAT) to control access to files and directories. Using OATs, a user can control who is allowed to access and manipulate

certain files. The term object as used in the OAT refers to files and directories that contain files. The OAT is not a user-defined data type and, as shown above, a file is not a user-defined data type. Barkley simply does not show or suggest the providing a user-defined data type.

Barkley also does not show or suggest "providing security information for the user-defined data type," as required by Applicant. The Office asserts that "the object access type makes the objects secure by ensuring any access of the object conforms to defined security and permission attributes (Barkley, column 11, lines 40-56)." This may be true, but secure access to "objects" like those described by Barkley is not what Applicant is requiring. Applicant instead requires that security information be provided for a user-defined data type. A user-defined data type is a description of data and not actual data. As discussed above, Barkley simply does not discuss or even hint at the use of user-defined data types. Barkley teaches the assignment of permissions to actual files and not to a user-defined data type as required by Applicant.

102(e) Rejection of Claim 17

Barkley does not show or suggest a "secure data type associated with security information," as required Applicant. Applicant defines a secure data type as a user-defined data type (page 3, paragraph 2). As shown above, Barkley does not show or suggest a user-defined data type. Moreover, Barkley fails to show or suggest any "data type" whatsoever. Barkley also fails to show or suggest the association of security information with a data type, let alone a secure data type, as required by Applicant. Barkley's access control is associated with so-called "objects" that Barkley defines as "a passive entity that contains or receives information." (Barkley col. 6, lines 17-18.) Barkley's objects are clearly not the same as a data type, as that term is used by Applicant and understood by a person of ordinary skill in this area. These elements are missing from Barkley.

102(e) Rejection of Claim 5

Barkley does not show or suggest a database that "store[s] an instance of data according to the first data type in the database system," as required by Applicant.

Barkley provides a detailed description of how his role/group permission system works with the Microsoft WindowsNT® operating system but gives almost no information on how the invention would work with a database system, except to say that a system administrator would define object access types (OAT). No further details are provided with respect to databases. Barkley simply does not show or suggest storing an instance of data, in a database, in the manner required by Applicant.

The Office asserts that “Barkley teaches that objects and their attached respective object access type (permission/security granting objects) are stored in a database (column 13, lines 62 – column 13, line 9).” (Office Action, Page 3, paragraph 5.) Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant can not find a passage that teaches storing anything in a database, much less storing an instance of data according to a data type in a database, as required. These elements are missing from Barkley.

102(e) Rejection of the Dependent Claims

Claims depending from claims 1, 5, and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons presented above.

CONCLUSION

The Office has not shown that each of the required elements of Applicant's claims are found within Barkley. The rejection is therefore improper and Applicant's claims are allowable over the prior art made of record. Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and allow all claims. Please charge any fees that might be due, excluding the issue fee, to deposit account 14-0225.

Respectfully Submitted,

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